

MUFON

New Series 8

Autumn 1977



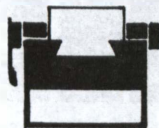
AUTUMN BOOK NUMBER

Vehicle stoppages

Signs in the sky

Visions in Hull!

EDITORIAL NOTES



New Series 8 (Whole number 42)

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EDITORIAL PANEL:

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Back issues of the Bulletin, both New and Old Series are still available, although some numbers of the Old Series are out of print, and others are selling out fast. We have had several orders for complete runs of MUFOB, and our stocks are limited. The price for single back numbers is 40p (80c) post paid. For full details of issues available, and special rates for bulk orders, send a stamped addressed envelope, or international reply coupon to the Editor, ~~at the above address~~.

May we remind our readers that MUFOB is always willing and eager to print Letters to the Editor on anything even vaguely connected with our subject which may or may not have been mentioned in these pages. Over the past few months we have been getting many letters from readers, saying things like "Keep up the good work" and "You're doing a grand job", which is very encouraging for us, but does not lead to stimulating correspondence columns! It may be, of course, that all our readers agree so much with our editorial approach, and the views of our contributors that they have nothing to add to it; but I would hate to think that MUFOB was quite so well thought of! So please, let's hear from you.

One topic that our readers may like to exercise themselves on, is Alan Sharp's article in this issue. We would welcome hearing from anyone willing to undertake a further statistical study of vehicle stoppage reports - to either confirm or challenge the thesis that the temporal distribution of reports is directly linked to an easily discernable, mundane, cause.

We would make the following stipulations: that the sample should be as large and inclusive as possible, and should be based on existing catalogues and record, so that no bias is introduced into the selection of data.

If Mr Sharp's statistics are confirmed from other studies, the assumption that 'inexplicable' motor-vehicle stoppages in a UFO context are the result of some un-natural, physically induced, external force becomes almost insupportable. Coupled with the increased evidence of such stoppages in non-motorised vehicles in a folklore or 'supernatural' context (and we would refer readers to the section on 'Invisible Barriers' in Rickard and Michell's book reviewed on page 15) this would seem yet another nail in the coffin of the naive extraterrestrial theory. If however the statistical pattern is not repeated in other studies, the proponents of an 'electromagnetic effect' still have to explain the prevalence of vehicle stoppages as an archetype in a wide variety of contexts, where they can be seen as a demonstration of mental and parapsychical control over purely physical and mechanical processes.

As more and more ufologists are questioning the naively mechanistic assumptions of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis, some of the so-called "Physical Evidence" needs to be reassessed. In his article "The Ghost in the Machine" in MUFOB 3 Roger Sandell looked at some examples of mysterious vehicle stoppages outside the UFO frame of reference. In the two articles presented here, Nigel Watson and Alan Sharp, in contrasting manner, produce further evidence that challenges radically the assumption that vehicle stoppages in a UFO context are the result of the action of an external, physically induced force.

MORE GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE

EXAMINING THE STATISTICS

Alan W Sharp BSc BEng

The reported interaction between certain UFOs, and motorised vehicles in their vicinity is no new phenomenon, but the implications are so important that the whole question deserves a far more searching treatment than it has hitherto received.

Needless to say, the subject is fraught with all the usual pitfalls and difficulties which are a normal part of the UFO scene. Namely, a dearth of vital information, with published reports concentrating on the more macabre aspects of the sightings, imaginative embellishments of the story, a desire to provide good journalistic copy and so forth. All of which are an hindrance to understanding, and must be allowed for in any critical study.

Classic examples of the alleged interference of UFOs with vehicles can be found in reports of the Loch Raven, Maryland, incident of 26 October 1958 (1), the events near Levelland, Texas, in November 1957 (2), and the mysterious chase near Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, on 9 February, 1962, described by Robert Chapman (3) as being "hallowed in saucer lore".

The interference - for which no causal connection has ever been established - takes the form of engine malfunctions usually amounting to complete stoppage, and partial or total failure of lights and/or radios. Usually conditions are said to return to normal after the disappearance of the UFO, whose ability to effect malfunctions is generally ascribed to some unspecified electromagnetic effect acting on the circuitry of the vehicle. (4)

Unfortunately, the notion of such interference is one which is deceptively easy to put forward, but far from easy to corroborate in the absence of evidence of the type searched for in vain by the Colorado University team, who anticipated alterations in the "magnetic signature" of the car bodies as a result of the intense magnetic flux required to produce the reported effect. Though these findings were important in demonstr-

ating that the cars under test had not been subjected to high intensity internal magnetic fields, the Condon researchers left the matter somewhat in the air by failing to investigate any alternative causes to account for the reported malfunctions. (5) Although in this they were no more at fault than non-official UFO groups who have, in the main, been content to embrace some rather vague "force-field" type of hypothesis.

One might think from reading the literature that auto failures similar to the kinds reported in a UFO context were unknown in everyday life, but any competent garage mechanic or electrician would point out that this is far from the case, and that such failures can and do arise from a multiplicity of causes, non of which has anything to do with the action of mysterious external influences.

Nevertheless, many ufologists obviously consider that a problem exists, and have stated their opinion that the evidence, for what it is, does point to some powerful interaction between the observed UFO and the vehicles in which witnesses were travelling at the time of the sightings, and which are reported to have stopped under unusual circumstances. Bearing in mind the dearth of useful information about the vehicles themselves, we may ask if there are any parameters available which might at least give some indication as to whether or not the reported malfunctions were indeed due to emanations from the reported UFOs, or had some mundane origin?

There are two important items of information which are almost always included in these reports: namely the date and time of the occurrence. It may be possible that from these clues the ufologist might glean some insight into the matter.

To put this to the test, the writer has compiled a list of all the relevant reports that could be found in six ufological books to hand at the time of writing. The six volumes are:

A. VALLEE, J. Anatomy of a Phenomenon

(4)

B.	KEEL, J.	Operation Trojan Horse
C.	CONDON, E.	Scientific Study of UFOs
D.	LORENZEN, C.	Great Flying Saucer Hoax
E.	CHAPMAN, R.	UFO
F.	HYNEK, J. A.	UFO Experience

From these the following list of incidents was drawn. The columns, from left to right, give: a reference number, locality, date, local time, source (as above)

1	Gueugnon (France)	Oct 14, 1954	19.30	A
2	St Romain, France	Oct 14, 1954	20.50	A
3	Turquenstein, France	Oct 20, 1954	18.30	A
4	Pouzou, France	Oct 21, 1954	21.30	A
5	4 miles west of Levelland, USA	Nov 2, 1957	22.50	AF
6	4 miles east of Levelland, USA	Nov 2, 1957	23.50	AF
7	Whiteharral, USA	Nov 2, 1957	24.00	AF
8	9m east of Levelland	Nov 3, 1957	00.05	AF
9	10m n.e. of Levelland	Nov 3, 1957	00.15	AF
10	4m west of Levelland	Nov 3, 1957	00.45	F
11	5m n.w. of Levelland	Nov 3, 1957	01.15	AF
12	N.E. of Levelland	Nov 3, 1957	01.15	F
13	Orogrande, New Mexico	Nov 4, 1957	13.10	E
14	Kearney, Nebraska	Nov 5, 1957	P.M.	B
15	Playa del Rey, Calif.	Nov 6, 1957	Night	B
16	Orogrande, New Mexico	Nov 7, 1957	09.20	D
17	Lake City, Miss.	Nov 9, 1957	01.00	C
18	Carrizozo, New Mexico	Nov 9, 1957	19.20	D
19	Salvador, Brazil	Feb 24, 1958	0304-	
20	Loch Raven, Maryland	Oct 26, 1958	04.35	D
21	Aston Clinton, Bucks	Feb 9, 1962	03.30	E
22	Colchester, Essex	Sep 19, 1965	01.30	E
23	Towanda, Penna.	Apr 25, 1966	20.15	B
24	North East of USA	Winter 1967	02.00	C
25	Methuen, Mass.	Jan 20, 1967	18.50	F
26	Leominster, Mass.	Mar 8, 1967	01.05	F
27	Ephrem, Washington	Apr 21, 1967	02.00	F
28	Reading, Berkshire	Last week in Oct, 1967	04.30	E
29	Boyup Brook, W. Aust.	Oct 30, 1967	20.00	B
30	SE of USA (?)	Autumn, 1967	03.30	C
31	Cochrane, Wisconsin	Apr 3, 1968	20.00	F

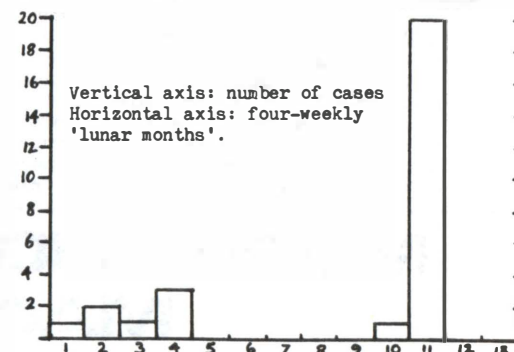
By month the above cases fall thus:

January ...	1	February...	1
March ...	2	April ...	3
May ...	0	June ...	0
July ...	0	August ...	0
September ...	1	October ...	6
November...	14	December...	0

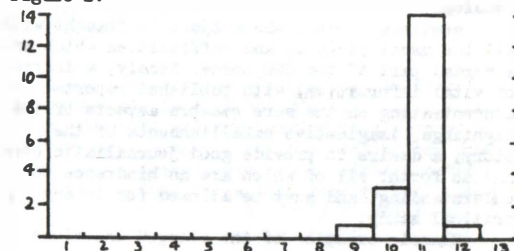
Cases 24, 29, and 30 have been omitted from the total which thus comprises 28 events. The figures show a high incidence of cases in the autumn months of October and November. In fact the situation is even more arresting than appears at first sight, since there is an even greater concentration in the four week period October 13th to November 9th, inclusive.

If the year is therefore divided into thirteen four weekly periods, starting with the second week in January, the most popular period for these cases becomes "lunar month" 11, and the cases are

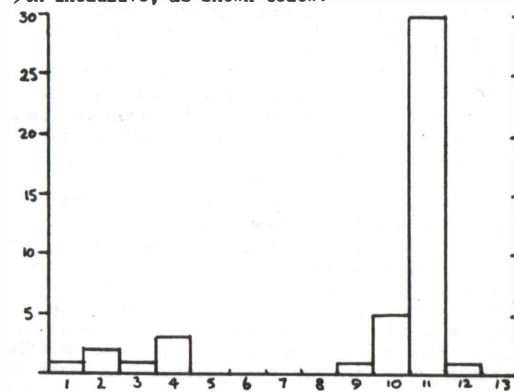
distributed as follows:



In order to check whether the result may have been fortuitous, recourse may be had to the International Catalogue of Type I Records (INTCAT) compiled by Peter Rogerson. This has now completed the five-year period from 1950 to 1955, during which incidents involving vehicle failure came in to their own. The INTCAT cases are distributed as follows, using the same four week periods as in figure 2:



Four of the events depicted in Figure three also occur in the items listed in Figure 1. Making allowances for this overlap, and adding both sets of data together, a total of 44 events is obtained, of which no less than 30 occupy the eleventh four week period, October 13th to November 9th inclusive, as shown below:



In the case of normal examples (6) of auto malfunctions similar to the types described in UFO reports, there is a peak period in the autumn due to the onset of damp, inclement weather and the shortening hours of daylight, and a second but very much less pronounced increase in the spring, when winter has taken its toll, and when cars which have been little used in the preceding months, once again take to the road after what amounts to a seasonal hibernation. The summer months are comparatively free from such troubles.

The only reasonable inference which can be made of the figures described in this paper is that vehicle malfunctions in the UFO context are intimately related to the time of year, and in this context this means meteorological conditions and reductions in the hours of daylight, both of which put considerable strain on, amongst other things, auto electrical systems.

References:

1. HYNEK, J Allen The UFO Experience. Abelard-Schumann, 1972.
SHARP, Alan W. UFO Evidence in an American Reservoir? MUFOB 6, 1, July 1973.
2. HYNEK, J Allen, op. cit.
3. CHAPMAN, Robert. Unidentified Flying Objects Mayflower, 1970.
4. In fact the phenomenon is widely referred to by ufologists as the E-M Effect, usually without any further explanation. (JR)
5. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Bantam, 1969.

THE FOLKLORE CONNECTION

As Roger Sandell has rightly pointed out (1) there is much evidence to show that vehicle stoppages are not unique to UFO lore. Horse-drawn vehicles seem to have been prone to such stoppages as can be seen from the following quote:

"In days gone by the waggoners used to make sure to have a whipstock o' wicken; and when a witch used to see a waggoner coming wi' such a whip, she'd say "'Ere comes the lad wi' the wicken-tree gad!" and she couldn't do owt agen 'im. A witch could stop a team of horses wi'out saying a word, she could, and no one could make 'em move while she wanted 'em to; but if a lad wi' a wicken tree gad just come along and touched each 'orse wi' his whip, then the team 'ud move on. (2)"

Bicycles also could be affected. Near a gateway about two miles outside Listowel, Eire, two IRA men were killed by British soldiers during a skirmish in 1918. Later in that same year, on a moon lit night, two young men were cycling home to Listowel, after having been to a circus at Abbeyfeale, five miles away. The time was about 1 am on a night in June; and Paddy Maloney aged 17, and his friend Moss Barney of Ballyunion, Co. Kerry, were anxious to get home. They had forgotten about the shooting incident, but when they reached the part of the road where the skirmish occurred, something stop-

(5)

6. The two major British motoring organisations were asked to comment on the authors suggestion that minor electrical faults were most prevalent with the onset of autumn. The reply from the RAC is quoted as representative:

... it has not been possible to extract actual figures for you, but the Departments involved have been consulted.

It is true to say that generally the assumptions that you mention were supported by our knowledge of breakdown services throughout the country....

The Winter pattern for October through to January continues to give the minor fault problem, often of an electrical nature, up to, I would estimate, 60% of breakdown jobs. An interesting point is that this type of work seems to occur mainly in the major conurbations.

However, it is noticable in the past two or three years that the summer peak is increasing. This is not so much for minor breakdowns but for such faults as overheating leading to cylinder head gasket failure...

There is indeed a discernable pattern in the roadside breakdown frequency. Still two peaks Summer and Winter and as stated the former peak is beginning to rise.

G J Robinson
Deputy Services Manager

The reply from the AA spokesman was in similar vein, but added that he could find no evidence of a pattern of 'post-hibernation' breakdowns.

Nigel Watson

ped them going any further. However hard he tried Patrick could not ride from the spot. He said:

"It felt as if someone were at back of us, holding on to our bicycles. I felt clammy and moist, and the sense of a presence behind me trying to prevent me from going down that road was very strong. I had the sensation that someone was trying to keep us from running into trouble further down the road. I tried to cycle as hard as I could, but to no avail. Yet, the road was level, with a stretch of wooded section for at least 500 ft. I felt myself weaken the cold sweat broke out all over me, I tried to tell Moss about my difficulty but found my tongue was paralysed. With a last surge of power I pushed on and finally broke away from the 'thing' behind me. As soon as we were out of the wooded section our bikes were free as before. We both jumped off and I started to tell Moss what I had experienced, only to find that he too had felt the same uncanny weight. He too was unable to talk for a while."

Patrick's last comment was "I'll never ride this road again at night". (3) More bicycle interference can be found in Haunted East Anglia, a book by Joan Forman. On page 53 she writes:

My father, when a young man was engaged to the miller's daughter at Legbourne Mill. He

was in the habit, when the working day was over of cycling out to Legbourne via Cawthorpe, taking the route by the plantation... He had a reasonably modern bicycle, as cycling was one of his hobbies; in those days modern did not extend to battery powered lamps. Both front and rear were acetylene lamps and had to be lit by hand. One one particular light my father rode his usual journey to the mill. He had turned into the plantation stretch which leads to Cawthorpe and was passing the gateway when his front lamp went out. He dismounted and re-lit the lamp, climbed back on and was about to move when the rear light went out. He got off the machine again, re-lit the rear lamp and once more prepared to ride off. At that point both front and rear lights were extinguished together.

No doubt the young man was thoroughly alarmed and discontented. As far as he could see there was no earthly explanation why one lamp, let alone both, should go out. Once more he re-lit both lights, jumped on the bike and pedalled hell-for-leather down the lane. Once out of the mysterious gateway both lights remained alight. He came home via the main road through Legbourne village and for several weeks gave the plantations a wide berth.

The above incident took place in Lincolnshire in about 1925. It is interesting to note that in both bicycle encounters, the incidents took place in gateways connected with violent death. The Lincolnshire plantation gateway was the scene of the murder of a drover who in the 1800's was killed whilst bringing a herd of pigs from Louth. The gate has since been haunted by phantom footsteps followed by a phantom herd of pigs; and a scarf of mist is said to stretch out from the gateway - whatever the time of year.

References

1. SANDELL, Roger. The Ghost in the Machine, MUF0B New Series 3.
2. RUDKIN, Ethel. Lincolnshire Folklore, EP Publishing, 1973, first published 1936. "Gad" is Lincolnshire dialect for a whip; a wicken is a mountain ash.
3. HOLZER, Hans. Lively Ghosts of Ireland. Ace Star Paperback, 1967. pp.20-21.

From page 11.

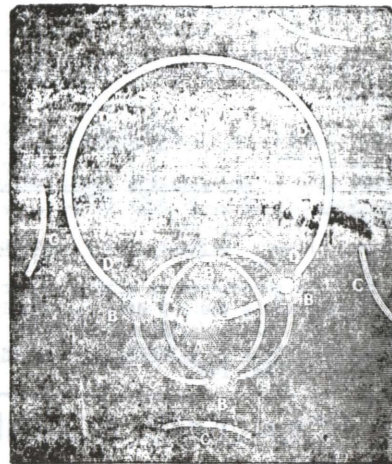
Material for the programme has been filmed in Egypt, the USA and South America, and interviews have been filmed with such personalities as von Daniken, Robert 'Sirius Mystery' Temple, Carl Sagan, and Thor Heyerdahl. If the Triangle film is any guide, it should be a worthwhile culling of some of the AA theory's sacred cows. It will be interesting to see what attitude (if any) is adopted to present-day UFO reports. The programme is scheduled for transmission on Friday 25th November, at 9.45 pm in the 'Horizon' slot, with a repeat the next day in the afternoon; but check your Radio Times nearer the day, just in case.

VISIONS AND VISIONARIES

JOHN FLETCHER

REMARKABLE HALOS AND PARHELIA SEEN ON THE 29th MARCH.

These optical phenomena were seen by many persons in England, Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Wight, between 11h. A.M. and 5h. P.M. on Wednesday, March 29. We have received many descriptions of the phenomena, which, although complicated and difficult to describe, confirm each other in a very remarkable manner. We have selected one drawing for engraving furnished to us by a correspondent in Guernsey.



Somerset was probably the most politically and religiously revolutionary area in the country during the Civil War and Interregnum - the Monmouth Rebellion was the last rising of the old radicals - and with the Restoration in 1660 all their dreams lay in ruins. They lived in daily expectation of the coming of the Lord.

1664 There was an epidemic of witchcraft and witchcraft prosecutions in the villages around Wincanton.

1657 & 8 Great outbreak of witchcraft in Shepton Mallett, including one instance of a young boy flying, witnessed by many onlookers. Witches executed.

12 July 1662 In a publication called Annus Mirabilis, or 'The year of prodigies and wonders' it is reported that two miles from Chard on this date, towards evening, "were seen by many credible persons two suns together in the firmament. They were both so high that they could not discern which was the false sun, till after it had continued a while, it disappeared, and the true sun went on its course".

14 July 1662 Three moons seen in the sky near Chard, about 10 pm.

19 July 1662 Two suns again seen at Chard.

20 July 1662 After sunset, several persons, in-

INTCAT

PART 13

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I RECORDS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

616 Early 1956 0100 hrs
BARRE-DE-CEVENNES (LOZERE, FRANCE) Two gendarmes heard a sound which grew louder and saw above them an object 10m diam. They felt a hot wind and the object landed not far away. A white ball emerged from the upper cupola of the machine, in front of this 4 people emerged from the craft. The people re-entered the craft along with the ball. It immediately took off with a "stunning" noise. (Ganard - Carreau & Lavier p116 + LDIN 116 p10)

617 1956 Approx. year early morning
LA GRANJA (SEGOVIA, SPAIN) A farmer and two others saw an unidentified object land on the property of the former. Apparently the case was spectacular for he was called to make a deposition to a top provincial authority, but he is reluctant to talk. (D21 - Ignacio Barnade + Ballester files)

618 1956 0300 hrs
BLOOMINGTON (INDIANA) 4 boys had been fishing in an abandoned stone-quarry on the north-west side of the city. They were awakened by a loud buzzing sound and a blinding white light. A circular object so bright that no details could be seen was passing overhead. It crossed the quarry and descended near some sycamore trees near a small mill. When the boys got the courage to venture out on nearby railway tracks, they saw that it was at about 5m alt. above the convergence of two railway switch tracks 30m from the mill itself. The boys felt heat when the light struck them. The object was soundless while it hovered, but emitted a tremendous whine and hum as it rose straight up out of sight. A nightwatchman at the mill also saw the object and the boys, but did not report it for fear of ridicule. The trees at the site were scorched, the leaves withered and dying. The boys were questioned by an Indiana University psychiatrist who opined they were telling the truth. (Edwards Ia p35 - Edward's personal investigation)

619 1956
STOVER (MISSOURI) A bright light was seen ascending from a wooded area. When neighbours investigated they found the ground blackened in a circle 17m diam., and several small trees broken and pushed out from the circle. (Phillips P19-10 - Personal files)

620 15 January 1956 early evening
HEUNDE nr PUSAN (SOUTH KOREA) An object the size of a washtub was seen falling into the sea 50m offshore by a large number of townspeople. The

glow continued. The glow continued for 1½ hrs before the object sank. Military authorities were alerted. MP Corporal Ben Elliot observed the glow which resembled burning alcohol or benzene. (Sanderson 2 p38 - Fate June 1956 p22 - Samuel Norman)

621 18 January 1956 1950 hrs
REDONDO BEACH (CALIFORNIA) A glowing object was observed by a number of people including a coast guard and police officers, to slowly land on the water 75m offshore. The water began to froth, and after a while the object sank, tho' a glow remained for perhaps 1 hr. afterwards. Searches by divers were fruitless. (Lor IV p69)

622 30 January 1956 2130 hrs
LAMAR (OKLAHOMA) An object was observed at low altitude. Witness named as Lamar. No further details at present. (Table of Americal landings in Data-Net 4, 11)

623 9 February 1956 0130 hrs
REDONDO BEACH (CALIFORNIA) 3 Edison company employees observed a light which descended very slowly and settles on the ocean surface somewhere between about 25-100m from shore. It was described as a saucerlike ball of fire, which floated for an hour then sank, leaving a circle of light 4.5-6m dia. on the surface. (Barry Greenwood - Saucers, March 1956) THIS IS PERHAPS THE SAME EVENT AS 621

624 19 March 1956
CASRO VALLEY nr HAYWARD (CALIFORNIA) 3 local residents, Mary Reide, Marty Montero and Myrtle Moore, observed a bright glowing object descend somewhere near the intersection of Crow Canyon & Cull Canyon roads. A swishing sound was heard but no traces were found. (Barry Greenwood - Saucers, June 1956, p12)

625 6 April 1956
MCKINNEY (TEXAS) 2 men saw a silvery balloon shaped object apx. 2m diam. land in a field about 100m away from them, 8km east of McKinney. They stopped their car to investigate, but the object took off at fantastic speed. (M379 - Atic :: Vallee Ib, p135)

626 16 April 1956 0500 hrs
HENDERSON (NORTH CAROLINA) On Rt. 1, just before dawn, saw government employees saw, for a few seconds, a large top-shaped object passing over their car. It was as wide as the road, and made no sound. (M381)

627 9 May 1956 2300 hrs
JACKSONVILLE (FLORIDA) Joan Frost and Gertie Wynn were waiting for a bus after a dance on the outskirts of the town when they saw two starlike points of light pulsating, and travelling at a terrific speed. 15 min. later they returned, one light entering the other. This object, round and dark, descended towards them until it was at an altitude of 'three or four telephone poles'. It seemed to be surrounded by three white pulsating lights, later by a deep red mist of light. When the bus arrived, the object rose again, and another object came out of an opening on its under

side. The opening was rectangular, and reminded the girls of a bomb-bay. The driver of the bus and some passengers saw the performance at high altitude. One account records that the girls feared they were about to be abducted by the object. (Olsen 3-44 - CRIFO, 2,4 p31 - Richard Scoocchera: M382 - APRO Bulletin, March 1956)

628 Late Spring 1956 Night

THE PAS (MANITOBA, CANADA) At a time when melted snows had covered much of the area, Albert Lenneville was out with Reubin Shklev, when they observed a brilliantly lit luminous object land on one mound of dry ground. The craft was 13m diam. and its interior was so well lit that they could see movements inside. When the craft landed all its lights went out. As they made their way towards it, the machine took off. Lenneville has had many other UFO experiences, the first in 1937 and has become something of a UFO 'buff', carrying a 'detector' around with him much of the time. (Saucers Space and Science 62 p7 - Margaret Belford)

629 June 1956 0600 hrs

FEYZIN (RHONE, FRANCE) Mr Roland (21) was cycling to work, when between Corbas and Feyzin Fortress he saw a very bright object resembling a miner's helmet. Then he saw a dwarf, the height of a 9-year-old child, with a big head and wide shoulders, wearing a sort of grey diving suit. The being walked slowly, disappearing behind the object which took off some seconds later, silently in a spiral motion. The witness found difficulty in trying to pedal after the incident. (Gamard - LDIN Contact, March 1970 p12 + Carreau & Lavier, p62)

630 6 June 1956 0430 hrs

BANNING (CALIFORNIA) A cosmetics salesman was driving between Yucaipa and Banning on US 70 when between 5-8km from Banning, as the road turned right round a small hill, he saw an unusual object 30m alt., 90m away. It first appeared cigar shaped thin and wide with tapering ends. As the object banked left it appeared discoid, with a bubble like canopy on top, through which nothing could be seen. There were no other marks or protruberances of any kind. It appeared to be smooth and metallic, silver when down-sun, bluish when up-sun. No exhaust was seen or any indication of propulsion. About 6m dia. The craft appeared to be hovering when first seen then moved slowly, counter-clockwise across the highway, banked left, recrossed behind him, then returning to its original position. It took about 9 seconds to circle him. It then accelerated away WNW at 20°, disappearing from view in about half a second. (Olsen 3-46 - USAF files: M383)

631 14 June 1956 2000 hrs

BOESCHECQUE (NORD, FRANCE) Mrs Marcel Fevre directed the attention of her postman, Mr Rene Andries, to an object which look as though it was made of aluminium. It hovered motionless near the ground for a few moments, before ascending in a southerly direction turning red as it did so. When first seen the object was 200m away, and could be seen to be a sphere 40-50cm diam. (Bonabot - Courrier Interplanetaire no 19, ppl - Rene Andries)

632 16 June 1956 1910 hrs

SAO SEBASTIAO (SAO PAULO, BRASIL)
Joao de Freitas, a lawyer and Professor of Ancient Roman Law at the Catholic Faculty of Laws at Santos City, was in this town on a case. On this over-cast night, he was sitting on the beach, looking at the sea, when he observed something resembling a waterspout. He described it as a "pot-bellied" machine, moving in the direction of the beach, with a diameter of approximately 20 metres. The craft resembled two bowls placed together with a dome on top, on which there were windows landing line equiped with spheres. Two tall (2m) men emerged from the machine. They had fair hair and dressed in one-piece suits. He was unable to get them to understand a number of languages, but nevertheless they appeared to communicate with him and invited him aboard their craft. He sat in a "gorgeous apartment" while the machine went on a 30-40 min. trip through space. The beings appear to have communicated to him details of their propulsion system, and warning about unwise scientific tests. On returning he noted that his non-magnetic watch had stopped. He also claimed the beings had arranged a further meeting on August 12th, 1957. This latter event did not materialise. (FSR 2,5, p18 - Discos Voadores 4: Richard Heiden - SBEDV Special 1975, case 21 - SBEDV 4, p2 + SBEDV 21, p35 + SBEDV 22/3, p4 + SBEDV 31, 5, p2 + UFO Nachrichten 64-0 Cruzeiro (Int) 1 Dec. 1954 - Joao Martins: FSR 3,6 p2 - J Escobar Paria: Humanoids p36: Keel II, p202)

633 Summer 1956 2200

BRIDGELAND (UTAH) Sandy Richman saw an orange sphere descend over a hill at 30m and plunge into a river bottom at speed. A humming sound was heard. (Salisbury p240 - Joseph Hicks files)

634 July 1956 2030 hrs

ROYANCOURT (SOMME, FRANCE) Mr Serat was cycling from Rowancourt to Montdidier, when after cycling for about 3km he saw a yellow-orange circular object coming from the east at low alt. It suddenly dropped vertically, apparently without halting, into a field about 1.5km away. Serat stood stupified, and could see that the machine was a disc with a dome on top. Becoming uneasy, he began to ride away. After 300m he looked back, but could see nothing. (FSRCH 2, p14 - LDIN April 1968)

635 19 July 1956 0430 hrs

TOLANGA BAY (NEW ZEALAND) A farmer, his mother and an aunt saw an object hovering at the same height as their house (10-12m) about 200m away. They had been awoken by a brilliant light shining through the windows. The object was spherical with a band of light just above its centre. It moved slowly up and down, its light reflected on the sand. Some heat could be detected. At 0445 hrs the object rose to about 20m glided for about 800m and then slowly rose. (Flying Saucers/Civilian Saucer Intelligence (NZ) 4,2, p10)

636 16 July 1956 0430 hrs

VAN NUYS (CALIFORNIA) Ted Kitteredge (23) was awoken by the sound of his dogs barking, and saw a

golden ball land in his front yard breaking the trunk of a tree, while his dogs ran round barking. From this craft emerged three tall men dressed in ski-suits, with long blonde hair and strange penetrating eyes. As Kitteredge watched his fear vanished and he had the impression that he was no longer thinking his own thoughts. One of them spoke to Kitteredge and claimed to be from Venus. They left when the dogs went for the spokesman. Neighbours saw nothing but were disturbed by the barking of the dogs. Investigations were inconclusive. The witness claimed to have seen the sphere again on the 19th, at low altitude.

637 16 July 1956

VAN NUYS (CALIFORNIA) A schoolteacher who refused to give her name claimed that while she was in her rose garden, a sphere landed nearby, and three tall men, exactly the same as in the previous report, had emerged and communicated with her. Later, investigators received a series of hysterical phone calls from her claiming that the "spacemen" were visiting her and threatening to abduct her, etc.

638 16 July 1956

VAN NUYS (CALIFORNIA) A telephone lineman claimed a spherical object had landed less than a metre from him. 3 beings over 2m tall appeared, and claimed to be "spacemen" come to help the Earth. The lineman refused to give his name. All three of the above stories were first received by a reporter on the Hollywood Citizen-News. The investigator, Mrs Epperson, feels that they are part of an elaborate hoax (Ted Bloecher, CSL News-letter no 6, p15 - Idabel Epperson: Hollywood Citizen-News 20 July 56)

639 August 1956 1400 hrs

GRANJA DE TORREMERMOZA (BADAJOZ, SPAIN) On this sunny day about 20 small boys were playing soccer in a large field east of the town, when they heard a loud noise like a jet. Looking up, they saw a bullet-shaped object coming from the east in a curved trajectory. It came over them at tremendous speed, then suddenly slowed down, stopping 500m to the east at 3m alt. It was about 1m high, 4m long and aluminium coloured. At the narrower end was a window like that of a plane cockpit. In side they could see head and shoulders of 2 apparently naked beings with greenish skin. The boy who later reported the incident thought they had things like antennae on their heads. The boys were joined by about 10 adults, mostly women, and all 30 gestured to the occupants, who signaled back. When the crowd was about 30m away, and gestured for them to land, the craft took off to the east at high speed, disappearing within a second. There were no traces. (B22 - LDIN 123, p4 - Claude Navarro: Ballester files)

640 22 August 1956 1150 hrs

LE BOULU (FRANCE) Mrs Porta was riding her moped along Rt.115 from Le Boulou to Ceret, when she was overtaken by an enormous and absolutely silent motorcycle which appeared to be nickel-plated. On it there were two men dressed in fawn coloured satin-like blouses, gloves, closely sealed

helmets, dark trousers and tight boots up to the middle of the calf. She was then overtaken by another identical cycle. 500m ahead the two machines stopped, blocking the road and forcing her to pass on the extreme left. As she passed, the four men turned and stared at her, their faces totally hidden by the dark glass of their helmets. About 10m further she looked back and saw that the machines had vanished without a sound. Arriving home at 1925 she saw a bright metallic gleam on the slopes of Le Persus (also seen by some motorists) which disappeared after a few seconds. Her son informed her that green balls had been seen in the sky at Le Boulou at 1730hrs. (FSR 15,6 p.iii - LDIN 100 - Mr Vidal)

641 27 August 1956 2155 hrs

JUNIATA (PENNSYLVANIA) Mrs P (40) went into her yard to get some clothes of the washing line, when she saw a brilliant glowing object hovering 4.5-6m away, at about 1.2m alt. It appeared to be quite small appx. 1m diam. The lower part was discoid, and on the top was a transparent dome. The machine emitted a blinding blueish light, illuminating the yard and hurting Mrs P's eyes. After a minute she began to move, whereupon the object rose to 6m then shot away. It made a humming sound, and seemed to give off a cold draft of air. Neighbours reported nothing, tho' it was rumoured that someone had seen a lighted object. (Pegasus 3,1 p8 - Jas. Macdonald, first hand: Olsen 3-48 - USAF files)

642 September 1956 (appx. date) 1500 hrs

WILSON'S LAKE, NR. CHESTER (CALIFORNIA) A deputy sherrif and his sister were among 4 people hunting in this wilderness area. The lady saw a small being 150m away but assumed it was another hunter. The deputy was sitting on a log when he heard a growl and a rock rollong behind him. As he turned he saw, 20m away, a small brightly-clad being, 1.2m tall. It had a human appearance with "fine facial features", light brown hair slightly protruding from a red and gold cap, was wearing a gold, long sleeved jacket, open down the front, where a tan coloured pullover could be seen; tight fitting green trousers and light brown boots. No fastenings of any kind could be seen. The creature which looked 35-40 years old, turned round and leaped up the slope in 6m strides until it cleared the top. The deputy was so shaken that he had to take two bourbons to recover; searches uncovered nothing. (MUFON UFO Journal 112, p11 - Paul Cerny)

643 September 1956 2000 hrs

LE HOULME (SEINE-MARITIME, FRANCE) Riding his 'Solex' back from work, Mr Pollon saw a bright light. He joined some people hiding behind trees, and they saw a saucer-shaped machine 12-13m diam. some 80cm from the ground. Through portholes, 3 or 4 normally sized people could be seen. On the upper part of the machine a small antenna, and from the lower part flames emerged. After 10 mins. the flames and noise grew greater and a powerful headlight came on; it then took off to the south. (Gamard - LDIN 137)

644 September 1956 2030 hrs
CABO FRIO (BRASIL) Mr O Guarichi was walking on the beach with his dogs when he saw an object come from the sea and land. Two men 1.8m tall, wearing metallic uniforms emerged. One picked up objects from the beach. There was an exchange of gestures with the witness. One of the dogs turned away when Guarichi approached the craft, which was 20m wide, 3m high, and showed flashing lights as it left. (M385 - UFO Nachrichten March 1961)

645 September 1956 2100 hrs
BUTLER (PENNSYLVANIA) Charles McGrady (73) saw an object shaped like an "upside down dishpan" with "small pegs" on top, which circled his yard for an hour at treetop height. The machine, 75cm dia. 20cm thick, gave off a light grey smoke which killed the leaves on one tree. (Barry Greenwood - APRO Bulletin, March 1963, p6)

646 7 September 1956 1200 hrs
THE LOUP MR. MONEYMORE (DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND) Mr & Mrs John Hutchinson of Ballyneil farm, were in the farmhouse when they saw an object descend rapidly into a field. Mr Hutchinson went to investigate, by a circuitous route to avoid the mud. He found the object standing on the only bit of dry ground, 2m from a stream. It was a pointed ovoid, 1.05m major diameter, 60cm minor diameter, red in colour and rubbery in appearance. There was a small knob on top, and the bottom was gathered like the neck of a bag. Round the middle were four thin white stripes, merging with the red of the rest of the surface. When Hutchinson kicked it over, it righted itself. After a few moments he carefully picked it up; as he did so it began to spin anticlockwise, then clockwise. It felt like canvas outside and rubber inside, and weighed rather less than a light cine-camera. He tried to turn it up-side-down, but was unable to do so. When he put it down to ford a stream it rose up and disappeared into the clouds in a few seconds. It was this, coupled with the spinning motion and the fact that its surface was absolutely dry on a very rainy day, which suggested to the witness that it could not have been a balloon as had been suggested by the RAF. (FSR 2,5 p2 - Desmond Leslie - Round-up p81 - Lor IV, p74)

647 8 September 1956 (of following day)
TWIN FALLS (IDAHO) On his ranch 65km south of Twin Falls, prominent attorney E L Rayburn and his two employees Joe and Dick Parker saw a disc shaped machine 60m in diameter land near a steer. When the object took off at high speed moments later, the animal had vanished. (FSR 2,6 p7 - New York World Telegram & Sun 14 Sept 56 - Inez Robb - FSR 16,4 p35 - Creighton)

648 September 1956 2200 hrs
MR. PUTANURU (NEW ZEALAND) Colin Whitnall (15) was in a car with his parents and sister when he saw a large white shimmering mirror-like object rise from a field behind a hedge. It was about 2.1 m.diam. As it approached the car it split into two

identical objects which left at high speed.
(Flying Saucers CSI New Zealand 4,3 pl4)

649 10 September 1956
BIG BETHEL (VIRGINIA) A spherical object the apparent size of a softball was seen. Inside were passengers wearing headgear. No further details at present. (Blocher - Newport News Daily Press 9 April 1958 - Major Lawrence Tacker)

650 29 September 1956
PAJAS BLANCAS (ARGENTINA) An egg-shaped object 20m long landed in a field about 100m from a group of workers. It took off again when some peasants approached. (Greenwood - Flying Saucer, October 1956, p7)

651 Mid September 1956 1500 hrs
TRASH GREEN (BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND) Former German naval man Fritz Ruffler was bending over, cutting grass near the church when he felt a strange sensation in his spine, as if someone was watching him. Looking round he saw a translucent silver object like a teardrop hovering 6-10m away. After about 5 secs. it climbed at an angle, disappearing within seconds into the east. Ruffler fled home, white and trembling. He refused to talk about the incident for 15 years for fear of being thought mad. (FSRCH 11, pl4 - J C Drawbridge)

652 October 1956
IDAHO Gus Montihue and Bill Blaine saw four disc shaped objects hovering over a mine dump in an isolated part of the state. A large cigar shaped object hovered overhead. The smaller objects had four arms which extended to the ground. They made a number of trips to the large object. The total observation time was 1 hour. Numerous holes were found in the ground where they had been. (Phillips p20 (144) - Allen Benz)

653 October 1956 2000 hrs
FORRIERES (LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM) Mrs Pacquet (35) saw a glow in her field 250m away. A few moments later a disc shaped machine took off from the edge of the hill. It was orange, and made a noise like a deflating tyre as it took off. Alarmed by his wife's cries Mr Pacquet (39) came out of the farm and saw the light disappearing into the clouds. It was observed for about 30 secs., & was about 40cm in diam. (Bonabot - GESAG Special Bulletin - LDIN June 1970 pl1 + Lagarge - Melot)

654 29 October 1956 Afternoon
TOBBYHANNA (PENNSYLVANIA) 4 adults saw a silver cigar shaped object which disappeared into Harvey Lake. (Sanderson II p226 - Stroudsburg Daily Record)

Information for, and comments on, this catalogue should be sent to:
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NOTES, QUOTES AND ueries

The Hull Daily Mail of 10th August 1977, carries on its front page a report from which the following is extracted. (Cr: Derek Shelton)

"Early morning mist gave a 27-year-old police constable a ghoulish experience while on patrol in East Hull. For, on spotting a sudden bank of fog on the playing fields near to Stonebridge Ave. at about 1.30 am PC David Swift decided to investigate, thinking it could be smoke.

"But the mist revealed three dancing figures who he at first thought to be drunks playing around. As he got nearer they all disappeared into air leaving a shaken police officer behind them.

"One of the figures was a man dressed in a sleeveless jerkin, and tight-fitting trousers, while the other two were women wearing bonnets, shawls and white dresses. All appeared to be dancing round a non-existent maypole as they each had an arm raised"

This story raises a number of interesting points. Firstly, one will have noted the strange mist, a feature of innumerable UFO and entity encounters, and a stock feature of fairy-lore. It is perhaps this latter which the whole incident most strongly resembles, with the theme of fairy revellers disappearing into thin air as the mortal witness tries to enter the ring of dancers. The clothes that the beings are reported as wearing are curiously ambivalent, capable of bearing an interpretation both as traditional fairy dress (resembling some of the many Irish descriptions of the Sidhe), and as ghosts of 19th century country dwellers. We await a report from some local historian that the field where the incident did in fact house a maypole in the last century. The incident will then be 'explained' as a ghostly visitation. Indeed, not the least interesting aspect of the whole business is the way PC Swift speaks of it as a "ghostly sighting", and neither he nor the newspaper feel it necessary to offer any sort of apologia for doing so, feeling, with justification, that its readers (and PC Swift's senior officers) will regard this as a perfectly adequate explanation. Certainly it is more reassuring to the citizens of Hull to believe that their policemen see ghosts, than that they see fairies!

Readers may remember a BBC TV documentary in the 'Horizon' series about a year ago, which took a long critical look at the Bermuda Triangle. The producer of that programme, Graham Massey, was so impressed by the evidence uncovered, and the interest aroused, that he has been encouraged to do the same for the 'Ancient Astronaut' theory, sceptical of claims that early man was incapable of building his great monuments without outside assistance.

continued foot of page 6.

habitants of Chillington... "saw towards the west a very long cloud of extraordinary azure colour, and immediately out of the cloud came forth the form of a man with a rod in his hand, and on the top of it was a thing like a brush; he held it forward in his hand for a little while, and vanished, and then issued forth of the same cloud a man on horseback, having a sword in his hand, and one of his arms set by his side; he had also a flat round bonnet on his head, and something hanging down behind him like a feather. After which they saw several companies of horses and foot marching two in a rank, and then vanishing, and immediately others appearing in their place; they plainly discerned the foot men to be armed with muskets, and the horses to march very stately, touching their breasts with their noses. Two parties of them, one from the east and the other from the west, did charge each other with great fierceness, then all disappeared. This whole relation is testified by the spectators themselves.

5 August 1662 Two suns seen at Frome.

All the sightings and witchcraft I have listed happened in the heart of the Somerset wool industry, whose weavers and craftsmen formed the military, political, and millenarian spearhead of the New Model Army. On August 24th, 1662, the Act of Uniformity came into effect, and all these areas were stripped of their preachers. The long awaited counter-revolution had arrived.

John Fletcher is the author of a two-part article Paranoia Power, appearing in issues 22 & 23 of the magazine Undercurrents. In it he looks at the history of conspiracy theories, linking them with millenarian aspirations. In part 2 he describes the events of 1848 in England:

"...the Houses of Parliament, the Bank of England and all important public buildings in London had been provisioned and sandbagged for siege, barricades on every bridge were manned by the Guards, and London was 'defended' against the Chartists by a quarter of a million soldiers, specials, Chelsea Pensioners and 'reliable elements' like stock-brokers - all armed. On April 8th, five days before the expected millenium, the Illustrated London News carried a report that the Queen had withdrawn to her castle on the Isle of Wight because of fear of the revolution, and in the same issue a graphic description of huge lights and illuminations which had been seen in the skies all over Britain in broad daylight."

The ILN report, reproduced in our heading to this article, records "Remarkable halos and parhelia seen on the 29th March... by many people in England, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Wight, between 11 am and 5 pm..." Although the report describes the phenomenon as a 'parhelia' (mock-sun) it is most unusual that such an optical/meteorological effect would be seen over such a large area and extended length of time.

Undercurrents is available from the publishers at 6 South Street, Uley, Dursley, Glos., price 45p. Issue 23 also contains an introduction to Charles Fort and Forteanism by Bob Rickard.

BOOKS



MENZEL, Donald H and TAVES, Ernest H. The UFO Enigma; the definitive explanation of the UFO phenomenon. Doubleday, 1977. \$8.95

The blurb of the late Donald Menzel's book, co-authored with Ernest H Taves ("a psychoanalyst who has also done extensive research in parapsychology and visual perception and written science fiction for Playboy and Galaxy") claims that it is the book which 'proves' that "flying saucers are not extraterrestrial vehicles bringing little green men from outer space, but illusions produced by easily explainable meteorological and optical phenomena". Your reviewer cannot agree. Menzel 'proves' nothing, for the major weakness of the ETH is that it is not falsifiable, and even if it were Menzel's critique does not accomplish its objective.

Menzel and Taves are guilty of most of the faults which they ascribe to others: no detailed case studies analysed in an objective manner are given. They have not followed Klass's example in looking at and criticising cases in detail. They have taken the much easier road of providing inadequate summaries of cases, followed by ex cath-

edra statements which are difficult to verify.

In Chapter 8 the authors analyse and explain the residue of the unidentifieds in the Condon report; a task which they simplify for a start by dismissing all single witness Type I reports as hoaxes, full stop. In other cases only summaries and cursory explanations are given. Menzel and Taves may probably be right in some of their identifications, but there is no way of telling from the inadequate information given.

The chapters on "Flying Saucers of the Bible" and "The Flying Saucer Scare of 1897" are taken with little modification from Menzel's first book published in 1953. The former is suffused with the same kind of naive literalism that can be found in von Daniken, the latter shows little grasp of the complexity of the 'airship scare' one of the most extraordinary media stimulated visionary rumours of modern times.

The whole book is written in a most unpleasant tone, a combination of spluttering indignation emotionally loaded phrases, and arrogance. At times the authors give the impression of regarding them selves as Messiahs, saving the benighted plebs from superstition and ignorance, weaning them away from 'idle fancy', while extolling them to keep their feet on the ground and their noses to the grindstone. The emotional style resembles nothing so much as the hard-core believers themselves. They even share the UFO buff paranoia about the media, only there they see a great conspiracy by 'tru believers'. This reaction is typical of politicians, and tells us something about the psychology of both sides in the UFO debate. (PR)

BERLITZ BLITZED ROGER SANDELL

Berlitz's first book on the Bermuda Triangle was conclusively demolished by Laurence Kuesche in his Bermuda Triangle Mystery Solved. Now Berlitz is back, pausing only for a brief sneer to the effect that Kuesche has never been to the Triangle (true - but what are you expected to actually see there - vanished ships?), he trots out all the 'mysteries' demystified by Kuesche. He lists among ships that have vanished in the Triangle the Raifuku Maru (1925) which was seen to sink off the coast of Labrador, and the Bella (1854) which went missing off Brazil! The fate of round-the-world yachtsman Donald Crowhurst in 1969 is cited as a mystery. British readers will need no reminding of his diaries, vividly revealing his increasing mental unbalance and decision to commit suicide.

Several new mysteries are added to the list; on a preliminary investigation they do not seem to stand up any better. The Mahukona (1941) only went missing after it had been abandoned by its crew as unseaworthy. The Anglo-Australian (1938) vanished 'mysteriously' in a 60-knot gale off the Azores!

Without a Trace
Charles Berlitz
Souvenir Press, £3.95.

The disappearance of the Nina (1910) becomes less strange when we are aware that it was a 50-year-old tug.

However most of the book is devoted to other alleged Triangle mysteries, including strange archaeological finds, ghost ships and time anomalies, presented with no documentation at all. Although interesting if true, the author's record on matters which can be checked inspires no confidence. How little research has gone into this work may be judged from his repeating the story of the regiment that 'vanished' into a cloud at Gallipoli. A few moments reference to histories of the campaign would roast this old chestnut! Still, he does not try to claim that Gallipoli is in the Bermuda Triangle! Many of his other claims are refuted in detail in the New Scientist (14 July 1977), which includes statements by Leut. Wissman of the US Coast Guards and Prof. Wayne Meshjian that Berlitz has totally misrepresented their description of normal radar events.

I am indebted to Hocking's Dictionary of Marine Disasters for information on the true fate of ships mentioned in this review.

JENKINS, Stephen. The Undiscovered Country
Neville Spearman, 1977. £3.95

Mr Jenkins, a schoolmaster, covers a wide field in his book, ranging from leys to Mahayana Buddhism, receiving instruction in the latter from a monk at the Gan-Dan monastery in the Mongolian People's Republic.

It is a pity that the said monk did not also provide Mr Jenkins with some lessons in literary style, as his current style is so rambling and verbose that many readers will give up in despair. This would be a pity, as the book has some fascinating details of the author's experience with various paranormal events. A number of his experiences seem to have taken place on the intersection of ley-lines, and include a curious feeling of disorientation - a tradition well known in Irish folklore, where people 'bemused' by the Sidhe can wander about fields all night, unable to find an exit.

Jenkin's discussion of the Virgin as a symbol of the 'Great Mother' in various cultures is illuminating, and his information on the image of the 'Black Dog' of interest. However, some parts of the book are, in this reviewer's opinion, less worthwhile. Rather too much weight is attached to the curious theories of T C Lethbridge, some of which seem quite unintelligible. It would appear that the author also believes there is a cosmic war between metaphysical entities from Orion and the Pelaiades, a concept which seems unlikely, to say the least. There are traditional beliefs linked to the Pelaiades, but they may have originated from calendrical rituals. Jenkins puts rather too much faith in the beliefs of contactees and seems unaware of the extent of borrowing, conscious or otherwise, between one sect and another in modern contactee cults.

One of the more frustrating aspects of this book is that, while constantly hinting about insights into paranormal phenomena that may be provided by lamism, he draws back into a cloud of verbiage rather than providing a lucid account of its cosmology and its cultural background. It is only by making a thorough study of this aspect of Mongolian society that some of his comments could be evaluated.

Before anyone sets himself this task, or looks through more exotic cultures in search of solutions to the UFO problem, ponder the koan that an old monk set disciple Jenkins, who had (your reviewer suspects) been pestering him for some revelation of the location of Shamballa, a mythic land of the Mongols. The monk pondered, then explained that some considered it to be in Orion, others put in in the underworld or in a magic island which appeared as disappeared at will. But the wisest had thought long and hard, to come up with an answer - Shamballa was really in the British Isles. This seems a retelling of the great myth of the pilgrim, answering a dream embarking on a journey to find a great treasure; instead he finds a stranger who tells him of his dream, about a treasure in the pilgrim's own garden. He returns home, and sure enough, he finds it. Moral: if you want mystery and wonder,

look in your own backyard! Jenkins seems to have taken his teacher rather literally, and is now searching for lost Shamballa amongst the leys, and promises us another book. Let us hope he tightens up his writing first, to avoid giving us another potentially fascinating book ruined by muddled style and waffle (PR)

SCHWARZ, Berthold Eric. UFO Contactee Stella Lansing; possible medical implications of her motion picture experiments. An offprint from the American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine, volume 23, no. 2.

This 16 page pamphlet is a report of FSR's Dr Grattan-Guinness's experiments with Mrs Lansing in September 1974, and is recommended for those with an interest in thoughtography and related subjects. Your reviewer has come to no firm conclusions as to the reality or otherwise of Mrs Lansing's alleged gifts, but feels that whatever the exact nature of the photographs, they represent an art form, through which Mrs Lansing can 'objectivise' an intensely real, personal experience. (PR)

ROGO, D Scott. The Haunted Universe
Signet Paperback, 1977. \$1.50

A wide ranging look at the 'psychic' component of a wide variety of Fortean and (especially) ufological events. A great deal of valuable material is presented here, including an analysis of lesser known aspects of the Pascagoula incident, a long look at the BVM apparitions at Zeitoun, more on US creature reports, and a most interesting chapter exploring the subjective origins of the UFO mystery. In all, a fascinating and readable account of interesting events.

Yet in the end, the book is self-contradictory. Concluding that such phenomena, particularly UFOs, are the products of the human mind, he rejects out of hand suggestions that they may be a result of telepathically shared dreams or hallucinations, stating:

"From years of investigation and laboratory work, we know that ESP is a very inaccurate information channel. In fact it is so bad as to be useless... To theorise that two people could come out with carbon-copy stories as a result of telepathic infection runs completely counter to every thing that parapsychology has discovered about the facility..."

As Rogo is described as an experienced psychical investigator and lecturer one would not wish to quarrel with such a statement. Yet, after denying the telepathic effectiveness of the human mind, he seems quite happy to allow the most remarkable psychokinetic powers to it, stating:

"All these assorted anomalies (falls from the sky, dematerialisations, misplaced objects and animals, monsters, spontaneous combustion) may be the products of the psychic capabilities of the human mind. The mind that releases the poltergeist is also the mind that causes rocks to fall from the sky, people to vanish, and UFOs to appear..."

Quite some achievements for a mind that earlier in the book wasn't as effective as two

tin cans and a piece of string in transmitting messages! However, although one may dispute the author's conclusions, the material unveiled in arriving at them is well worth reading (JR)

STEIGER, Brad (Ed.) Project Blue Book; the top Secret findings revealed. Ballantine, \$1.95

Despite the sub-titles claim, this collection of Blue Book documents contains nothing sensational. The cases reviewed are all well-worn classics; the book lacks an index, and the photographic reproduction is poor. The discussion of the Socorro case reveals one interesting point - where Zamorra denies having seen a flame in the sky at the time of the original explosion, and Hynek seems to agree that this was a piece of exaggeration. Yet in UFO Experience the flame re-appears. This collection of old documents should appeal to UFO buffs suffering from bouts of nostalgia. (PR)

ORTZEN, Len. Strange Stories of UFOs. Arthur Barker, 1977. £3.95

Len Ortzen's other works, listed in this book, include 'Strange Mysteries of the Sea', 'Famous Arctic Adventures', 'Stories of Famous Survivals', and 'Your Guide to the Loire Valley', so we are obviously dealing here with a professional, who can turn out a competent job on almost anything. And by and large this is what we get, a competent job. Nothing particularly brilliant, but nothing too bad either, straightforward accounts of a dozen or so UFO classics with an implied ETH slant. The bibliography includes Keyhoe, Memzel, Dutta (!), Shuttlewood and Trench. Vallee is represented only by his first two books, his later 'paraufological' writings are ignored. Frankly, I cannot see who this book is aimed at. The ufologist will find nothing new, the casual browser would be more likely to go for a paperback than this not inconsiderably priced volume. Damning with faint praise? Maybe, but it seems the only line to take. Sorry. (JR)

LORENZEN, Coral and Jim. Encounters with UFO Occupants. Berkley Medallion, 1976. \$1.95

The Lorenzen's latest book is basically an update of Flying Saucer Occupants, published in 1967, with the addition of much new material. As such it makes a useful popular introduction to contentious subject of CEIII cases. 164 cases are listed, perhaps 10% of the total sample.

As a serious work the present volume has a number of limitations; only the authors own files have been used for much of the time, giving a rather provincial air. This leads to some regrettable errors, for example the statement that "no occupant cases were reported in Canada prior to 1965". More seriously no acknowledgement is made of the contributions of other researchers in the field. Though much of the material reproduced from the 1967 book was taken directly from FSRs special issue The Humanoids, there is not only no note of

this, but FSR and Charles Bowen do not appear in the index, or in the main body of the text. Nor is there mention of Passport to Magonia, or Bloecher and Webb's HUMCAT. There is no bibliography to the main text at all.

These deficiencies are remedied somewhat by a valuable paper "Hypnotic and Psychic Implications in the investigation of UFO reports", by Leo Sprinkle, which contains an excellent bibliography. This article first discusses the use of hypnosis in relation to 'abduction' reports, and also gives a survey of people who claim to experience various impressions of UFOs, including some obtained in altered states of consciousness. It is not possible to adequately summarise such a complex paper in a short review.

Despite my criticisms, this work is well above average for the UFO literature, is inexpensive, and makes a useful addition to the UFO researcher's library. (PR)

TANSLEY, David. Omens of Awareness; startling parallels between UFO phenomena and the expanding consciousness of man. Neville Spearman, 1977. £5.35.

The first part of this book is an evaluation of the UFO phenomenon in terms of Theosophist philosophy. I assume that this means something to the devout Theosophist, to the outsider it could as well be written in Venusian shorthand. Matters are made worse by a number of quotations from Alice Baily, a clergyman's daughter at the turn of the century who was approached, in true contactee style, by a mysterious oriental stranger who announced he was the Master, Keot Hoomi, and set Miss Bailey on a spiritual quest. Alas, the ability to write meaningful English was not one of her great spiritual gifts:

"The subject is so stupendous that we cannot possibly do more than touch upon certain points, nor can we enlarge along the lines of mechanistic development of forms to utilise the force. This is all hidden in the science of electricity..." Which is about the most lucid extract from a book published by the ill-named Lucis Press.

Additionally, there are references to Baron von Reichenbach, Edwin Babbitt, John Keely, and Wilhelm Reich, whose ideas are quite unintelligible to mere mortals. To captain this motley crew is trickster Castaneda himself, who would have made a good partner for Mme Blavatsky, as both lived their lives as living novels.

Likewise, Tansley's critique of von Daniken fails in much the same way as Christian fundamentalist critiques do, by dogmatic assertion of 'truths' that are unconvincing to non believers.

These failings are a pity, because when the author escapes from the Theosophical 'party line' he can have some interesting things to say, and he has a good grasp of UFO literature. For example he argues that various UFO experiences are a kind of wish-fulfillment dream gone wrong in sorcerers apprentice style, an idea worthy of further

discussion; and the final paragraphs, where he argues that "UFOs are always one jump ahead of us enticing man to look at his world in different ways, triggering off new ideas and states of consciousness..." are fundamental to the New Ufology. However, few readers will be around after 300 pages of impenetrable jargon. (PR)

ARROWSMITH, Nancy with George MOORE. A Field Guide to the Little People. Macmillan, 1977 £5.95.

Eighty types of little people, ranging from little green men to hairy humanoids, are described, their habits and habitats listed. An invaluable guide for ufologists and Hull policemen.

A Phenomenalist Success

JOHN RIMMER

RICKARD, Robert J M and John MICHELL Phenomena: a book of wonders. Thames & Hudson, £3.95 Hardback, £1.95 Paperback

Tantalising hints of the contents of this book have been appearing in Fortean Times over the past year or so, making us eager for its appearance. The wait was worth it. In this large format, lavishly illustrated Fortean primer, the authors have concentrated on establishing and demonstrating the fundamental unity of the whole range of strange phenomena. The book takes about 60 categories of Fortean events, giving each a double-page spread. But instead of seeming merely the application of arbitrary labels, these sections serve to link the many facets of Fortean studies.

Thus we start with falls of frogs and fishes leading to rains of blood and organic matter, ice-falls and artifacts from the sky. Invisible assailants are linked to stigmata, both involving mysterious appearances of wounds, which then are linked to animal mutilations, freak plagues and illnesses, shared visions, phantom landscapes. Step by step the whole wonderful (for once the word can be used literally) picture takes shape.

In a preface, Rickard and Michell postulate a phenomenalist reality in which such

LANSBURG, Alan. In search of Extraterrestrials Corgi, 1977. 85p, paperback.

Alan Lansburg has taken the unusual step for his TV series of interviewing recent close encounter percipients and some leading UFO researchers rather than re-hashing old material for the umpteenth time. Despite its strong ETH bias, much of this book is above average for 'pop' UFO material. It is a pity then that it is spoilt by a truly asinine 'ancient astronauts' chapter, which not only drops in the Wheel of Ezekiel, but also Hamilton's calnapping joke and some quite absurd comments on ancient man. (PR)

events take place - in a phenomenalist philosophy the event is the subject under study, not its hypothetical cause, which many never be adequately defined in Newtonian terms. However unsatisfactory such an attitude may seem to physical scientists it is logically the only one which can be applied to such phenomena. They are real events which produce a discernable effect on our environment - what other definition of reality can we have?

A word about the pictures in this book. They are excellent. The authors have plundered the nation's picture libraries, and come up with some little gems (although the photo at the top of page 90 did me no good when I saw it!). The layout and design is first-rate, and the publishers are to be congratulated on having the courage to resist a sensational cover - but none the less striking for that.

Now the statutory quibble: no index! The book is self-indexing to an extent with its mini-chapters, but as the authors are emphasising the unity of phenomena, we need an index to the whole book.

That said, an essential book, entertaining and stimulating, and at £1.95 for the paperback, it's not going to break anyone. Give it lavishly for Christmas.

BOOKS RECEIVED

HITCHING, Francis. Pendulum: the Psi Connection Fontana. Paperback, 85p

CONSTABLE, Trevor James. Cosmic Pulse of Life Neville Spearman, £4.55

SITCHIN, Z. The Twelfth Planet. George Allen & Unwin, 1977

MORISON, Robert Kingsley. Levitation for Terr-estrials. Ascent Books, £1.25, paperback.

Mention here does not preclude a subsequent review.

GORLISS, William. The Sourcebook Project:

Strange Phenomena, G1, G2; Strange Artifacts M1, M2; Strange Planet, E1; Strange Universe A1, A2; Strange Life, B1; Strange Minds, P1. For details write to William Corlis, Box 107, Glen Arm, M'LAND 21057, USA, or to Robert Rickard.

These sourcebooks of Fortean material are essential reading for all Fortean and ufologists. The latter will find the A, G and P series the most interesting. The article on the Welsh Revival lights in G1 is a must. Of interest is not only the odd data, but the realisation of how 'world views have changed over the last century.

*'As phenomenologists, we accept everything;
we believe nothing absolutely; we do not explain.'*

Robert J. M. Rickard and John Michell

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